Crossing the electronic divide – designing and implementing the electronic delivery of dissertation support

The Dissertation Game

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Presentation structure

• Methodology & findings
• The solution – about the Dissertation Game
• Background to the online development
• Demonstration
• Moving forward
Methodology

- Dissertation tutors - 2
- Dissertation supervisors - 30
- Post graduate students - 50

- Focus groups
- Questionnaire – staff/students
- Interviews – dissertation tutors
- Observation – dissertation lectures
Methodology

- **Student**
  - Lack of understanding of:
    - **WHAT to do**
      - learning and assessment criteria
    - **HOW to do it**
      - appropriate English language functions e.g. justifying choices; critically evaluating;

- **Staff**
  - Students often failed to:
    - Show understanding of approach to research
    - Link topic to literature
    - Discuss findings
    - Link findings to literature review
    - Link conclusions to literature
The solution: new T&L materials - a game

- To increase their understanding of the learning and assessment criteria

- To be provided with models of language functions to meet criteria

• Matching exercise:
  • Assessment criteria

• Examples of language functions
Background to the online development

Northumbria created content for Dissertation Game.

Hertfordshire convert paper based materials into online format

Students work independently online and learn the contents of the Dissertation Chapters.

- Using the rapid e-learning development tool: Articulate.
- Question formats are quite different online to paper based version, but content is the same.
- Transcript written by Northumbria, audio by Hertfordshire.
Demonstration

The Dissertation Game
Moving forward

CURRENT

- Carry out staff and student testing.
- Refine and amend as appropriate, carry out second round of testing if necessary.
- Produce support documents and screen capture videos.
- Carry out workshops and train staff on the Game.

LONG TERM

- Promote to Business School staff and students in both Universities.
- Consider support database to capture the student results (currently students print or email – optional).
- Look at the wider perspective of use of the Game in other Faculties and other Universities.
- Publication.
References


Contact details

For more information on The Dissertation Game, please contact us:

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Any Questions?